

Commercial Road-Based Tours

In response to comments received from the commercial tour industry regarding inconsistencies across the National Park Service (NPS) in regards to the NPS Commercial Use Authorization program, the National Park Service (NPS) has recently standardized the CUA process for operators of commercial road-based tours.

By October 1, 2019 all road-based commercial tour operators must apply for and obtain a commercial use authorization (CUA) for every park in which they plan to provide tours after that date. This entails:

- Obtaining a CUA for each NPS unit in which they operate;
- Paying required CUA fees, and;
- Submitting mandatory annual CUA reports after each CUA operating season (but not more frequently than once a year).

Required fees comprise of a \$300 non-refundable annual CUA application fee upon submittal of application for each park and a \$5 per-passenger fee CUA management fee. This fee would be paid when the tour operator submits the annual report at the end of the operating season. While tour operators will also have to pay an entrance fee for each passenger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park does not charge an entrance fee.

After March 1, 2019 the Commercial Services Office of Great Smoky Mountains National Park will begin processing applications for commercial tours scheduled to occur within the park after October 1st of next year. For more information, please read the documents below.

[FAQ document](#)

[Tour Bus Guide](#)